

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Dave Arens and I am writing to you regarding your consideration of dropping the requirement that the telephone companies be required to provide ISPs access to (their networks). Removal of this requirement would be a grave mistake.

I and millions others like me depend on my local Internet Service Provider to give me access to Internet services and options not available from the large telephone carriers, or that provide better service than the large telephone companies. I have been a customer with my local ISP for almost ten years now, and know for a fact they provide much better service than I could get if I was forced to get service from the phone company or cable company. If you choose to remove my ISPs access to the (telephone network) they will no longer be able to provide me and others the level of service we have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access. Such action will simply force the independent ISPs out of business and will do nothing but LIMIT consumer choice not expand it.

Furthermore, by removing the requirement and reducing our choice, you will likely also allow consumer rates to rise. By having a current choice among several providers to choose from, I am not only allowed to find the best services to suit my needs, but also for the best price. Reducing the number of ISPs in the marketplace will certainly have the obvious result of reduced competition and increased prices for consumers in the long run.

I sincerely hope that you think very carefully what you are considering. Consumers all across America are depending on you to make the right decision. The right decision is to maintain and grow the level of competition in the Internet marketplace. That goal is best met by protecting and nurturing competitive market conditions for the thousands of independent ISPs and not through their destruction.

Commissioners I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs access to the public telephone networks and thereby protecting the rights of millions of consumers like me.

Sincerely,

David Arens  
630 Cromwell Way  
Lexington, KY 40503